



# UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA

ALEXANDRIA      NEWPORT NEWS      NORFOLK      RICHMOND

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

November 7, 2006

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## **Norfolk Man Sentenced to 40 Years on Drug and Weapons Charges**

(Norfolk, VA) - Marcus Booker Collins, age 31, of Norfolk, Virginia, was sentenced today to 40 years in prison for possession of crack cocaine and heroin with intent to distribute, possession of a firearm and ammunition by a convicted felon, and carrying a firearm during and in relation to a drug trafficking crime. Chuck Rosenberg, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, made the announcement after Collins was sentenced by United States District Judge Rebecca Beach Smith. Collins was convicted of these charges on July 27, 2006, following a three day jury trial.

Collins was arrested on November 3, 2005, when, according to the evidence at trial, he attempted to draw a gun from his waistband after he had been stopped by Norfolk Police Department narcotics investigators for questioning. Officers recovered a loaded .40 caliber Glock pistol and bags of crack cocaine and heroin.

The case was prosecuted under Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN)/EXILE, a federal program that uses a joint federal and state multi-agency approach to targeting armed criminals for prosecution in federal court for possession or use of firearms in violation of federal laws. It is a nationwide effort by the U.S. Department of Justice aimed at reducing violent crimes. Since its inception in Hampton Roads, Project PSN/EXILE has produced more than 1,190 convictions and removed more than 2,031 firearms from armed criminals.

This case was investigated by the Norfolk Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives. Assistant United States Attorney James A. Metcalfe prosecuted the case for the United States.

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